REMARKS

This responds to the **August 21, 2008** Office Action.

In the Office Action, claims 1-8 and 10-28 are noted as pending in the application, claims 1-8 and 10-23 stand rejected, no claims are objected to and no claims are allowed. Claims 24-28 have been withdrawn from consideration and are now canceled.

Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Objections

Applicant appreciates the withdrawal of the objections to claims 16 and 18.

Rejections

Claims 1-8, 10, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Jonas* et al. (5,234,126) (*Jonas*) in view of *Echternach* (GB 2 11 9 743 A, November 23, 1983). Claims 14-1 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harvey (3,272,383) in view of *Echternach* and Sugiyama et al. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harvey (3,272,383) as modified by *Echternach* and Sugiyama et al. in view of *Lyu* et al., of record. Claims 19 and 20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Biggins*, of record, in view of *Jonas*, *Echternach* and Sugiyama et al. Claims 21 -23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harvey in view of *Lyu* et al. and *Echternach*.

These rejections are respectfully traversed for the reasons stated herein.

Applicant's Disclosure

Applicant's disclosure has been discussed previously and that discussion will not be repeated here.

Support for the amendments herein can be found in Applicant's original specification and drawings. The height of the raised portion of between ½ and less than

2 inches can be found in original claims 4 and in the original text that supported the addition of new claim 21 that recites "wherein the upper position is greater than or equal to about one-half inch and less than two inches". That text noted that in the example shown in FIG. 1, the height of the raised portion is about 25% of the height of the outer wall, and in the example of the outer wall being 2 inches high [paragraph 21], the raised portion would be about one-half inch. As noted in original claim 9, the outer wall is higher than the raised portion, and in original claim 10, it is at least twice the height of the raised portion.

The raised portion diameter between approximately two inches and approximately 4 inches is based on the original specification page 11, paragraph No. 11, wherein the lid is greater than 120 mm (4.7244 inch) in diameter, and the drawings to be generally to scale, as noted at page 7, lines 30-32. From FIG. 3 as originally filed, the diameter of the raised portion comes to greater than about 4 inch.

The receptacle diameter greater than 4 inches is found in the original specification at page 5, lines 7-11.

Cited Prior Art

It is noted at the outset that none of the applied references, taken singly or in combination, teach or suggest or render predictable the claimed combinations. Each of the claimed combinations other than claims 14-20 include a raised portion or dome height of between 1/2" to 2 inches and either one or both of a largest dimension of the raised portion or dome across the receptacle of between two to 4 inches or an opening of greater than 4 inches. Additionally, a number of the claims (including claims 14-18) recite that the base portion has a largest dimension across the receptacle of greater than 4 inches. The applied art fails to make a receptacle having the claimed elements and these dimensions predictable.

It is also noted that the Office Action has not reconciled the prior art. As noted in Applicant's May 19, 2008 response, the prior art is contradictory among themselves, and in fact together they establish that the claimed inventions are non-obvious. See Applicant's May 19, 2008 response, beginning at page 14. In fact it was in that section

that Applicant argued that *Jonas* and *Lyu* are contradictory and nothing in the Office Action has reconciled the contradictions between the two references (as well as between other references). As noted in Applicant's prior response, the Office Action must consider all of the prior art taken as a whole, and the present Office Action fails to do so. Applicant recognizes that *Jonas* and *Lyu* are not combined in the Office Action, but the failure of the Office Action is that those two references are not considered together. The two references are contradictory, and if the Office Action considered the teachings of those two references at the same time, the conflict between them would be apparent. All of the prior art must be considered, and the clear teachings of the prior art cannot be ignored. The fact that the Office Action relies on both references means that the Office finds both references credible references. However, both references cannot be both correct at the same time when they contradict each other.

Briefly, and as demonstrated more fully below, *Jonas* describes a plastic container having very specific requirements for the bottom of the container in order to form a reliable structure. The bottom surface configurations must conform to very strict curvature requirements for the structure. Simply by way of example, the bottom wall 12 is indicated as having a height "D" in the example of Fig 5 of 0.2000 inch [see, column 12, lines 18-23]. Other dimensions for the height of the bottom wall are comparable. Therefore, *Jonas* as the primary reference fails to teach or suggest at least one of the claimed elements and none of the other applied references supply or teach element or elements missing from *Jonas*. As noted in the Office Action, *Jonas* is relied upon for the bottom profile while other references are relied upon for the height of the receptacle or the relation of the height to the diameter of the opening at the rim. However, simply by way of example, no other references provide the elements missing from *Jonas*.

It also should be reemphasized that *Jonas* teaches that the bottom wall should be as flat as possible for ensuring the strength of the container. One example *Jonas* gives is the bottom wall height D is 0.200 inch. However, that means that bottom wall heights higher than taught by the very strict requirements of *Jonas* for a workable container are in fact contrary to the teachings of *Jonas*. Bottom wall heights higher than those taught by *Jonas* would render such a container subject to failure. However, the

present claims recite raised portion heights well above those taught by *Jonas*. Therefore, *Jonas* teaches away from the claimed inventions.

It is also noted preliminarily that, while *Echternach* teaches a can having a larger diameter than height, *Echternach* does not teach a can having an outside dimension of 4 inches or more. All of the *Echternach* examples have outer diameters less than 4 inches.

It is also noted at the outset that *Lyu* describes very particular requirements for the relationship between H1 and H2 and also the dome 22 that are most important in the bottom profile to produce a reliable container. As noted in *Lyu*, the bottom includes an ellipsoidal dome 22 and a substantially vertical wall 20 with dimensions so that the maximum stress point on the dome is located at the intersection between the vertical portion and the dome 22. Because of the significance of that intersection, and the fact that the intersection does not conform to the transition profile required by *Jonas*, *Lyu* and *Jonas* are in conflict with one another. It is respectfully submitted that these contradictory teachings must be reconciled in the Office Action, without which the Office Action does not treat all of the prior art as a whole

Translation of Sugiyama

The Office Action relies on the Japanese language reference Sugiyama to form part of a rejection. Applicant respectfully requests a translation of that reference to permit applicant to properly respond to the Office Action. [See, Ex parte Gavin, 62 U.S.P.Q.2d 1680 (Board Pat. App. Interf., Dec. 17, 2001); and Ex parte Jones, 62 U.S.P.Q.2d 1206 (Board Pat. App. Interf., Nov. 28, 2001); MPEP 901.05(d) and 901.06(a).]

The substance of the applied references will now be addressed in more detail.

Jonas, U.S. Patent No. 5,234,126, teaches a plastic container with a bottom wall in FIG. 5. *Jonas* also teaches that container design requires very critical features. Without those critical features, there is no predictability that any particular design, whether on its own or having features from other containers will work. Some specific

teachings of *Jonas* will be described first, followed by a discussion of the teachings of the other applied references. Then, Applicant will apply those teachings to establish that it would not have been obvious to combine the references as has been done in the Office Action.

According to *Jonas*, "it is critical . . . the bottoms of these containers can be configured so that they are capable of deflecting both inward and outward in order to provide adequate volumetric contraction and expansion. . . . The preferred practice is to keep as much of the bottom wall as flat as possible so the pressures required to deflect the bottom wall do not exceed the curved side wall panel strength. As more curved or irregular shaped surfaces are added to the bottom wall, the bottom wall becomes more rigid and the likelihood of exceeding side wall panel strength increases". Clearly, *Jonas* teaches that the bottom wall should be as flat as possible for ensuring the strength of the container. Moreover, *Jonas* states that the predictability of the sidewall failing increases. Therefore, *Jonas* combined with a reference teaching other sidewall configurations is speculative at best **unless the bottom wall height is as low as recited in *Jonas***.

As noted above, one example *Jonas* gives is the bottom wall height D is 0.200 inch. However, that means that bottom wall heights higher than taught by the very strict requirements of *Jonas* for a workable container are in fact contrary to the teachings of *Jonas*. Bottom wall heights higher than those taught by *Jonas* would render such a container subject to failure. However, the present claims recite raised portion heights well above the bottom wall heights taught by *Jonas*. Therefore, *Jonas* teaches away from the claimed inventions.

Jonas further states that several critical criteria must be met in a usable container, and *Jonas* has found those requirements. The first critical criteria is that the bottom wall must deflect outward to almost a hemispheric shape and return without causing paneled side walls. [See, *Jonas*, column 5, lines 19-24.] The second critical criteria is that the bottom must deflect inward to avoid side wall paneling. [See, *Jonas*, column 5, lines 24-28.] *Jonas* further states that there are "fairly critical numerical values associated with certain parameters of the container which enable the generation

of container bottoms which will survive terminal sterilization." [See, *Jonas*, column 7, lines 60-64.] On the other hand, not using those fairly critical numerical values means that the literally millions of theoretical container bottom configurations must be tested by trial and error. [Compare, *Jonas*, column 7, lines 44-48, with column 7, lines 60, through column 8, line 1.]

Also according to *Jonas*, to make the *Jonas* design, over 100 finite element analyses were run. [See, *Jonas*, column 6, lines 17-18.] Finite element analysis is a very difficult process, and it is submitted that relatively few people skilled in this art at the time of the present inventions have the capability of running such analyses. Without such capabilities, design of low panel strength containers depended on the success of trial and error technique. [See, *Jonas*, column 7, lines 44-48.]

Another of the required *Jonas* criteria is that the bottom profile must avoid a sharp radius. Examples of acceptable radius surfaces are apparently shown in FIG. 5 of *Jonas*, where the circles S1 and S2 show how gradual a radius must be for the *Jonas* bottom configuration. The circles are shown having a specified radius and are shown contacting the adjacent surface over a designated arc length, several examples of which are 72 degrees and 78 degrees. What this apparently means is that to be a predictable, successful design, a container that will be known to work properly must have not only a gradual radius in the bottom profile but have the radii specifically identified in the *Jonas* equations. For those equations, see the equations at column 9, lines 60-65 and the accompanying text, as well as the discussion of the use of those equations at column 12, line 12 through column 13, line 11. Clearly there is no predictability in a container profile working unless it meets the *Jonas* criteria or there is substantial trial and error.

Echternach, GB2,119,743, teaches a buckle-resistant can having a bottom portion with two annular panel portions 52 and 55, and a central panel portion 58. The concentric panel portions 52, 55 and 58 are placed in a state of tension. Additionally, ogees 53 and 56 are included having relatively sharp radii compared to those in *Jonas*. Therefore, because the teachings of *Echternach* and *Jonas* contradict, it would not be obvious to combine the teachings of these two references. While the Office Action

states that *Echternach* is not relied upon for its bottom configuration, *Echternach*'s buckle-resistant can with concentric panel portions 52, 55 and 58 placed in a state of tension implies that the bottom configuration and the sidewalls are considered together in an integral container configuration. Therefore, it is not seen how *Echternach* and *Jonas* can be treated together given their respective teachings and their inherent conflicts. Additionally, *Echternach* is directed to metal can configurations while *Jonas* is directed to plastic containers, and there is no showing that one skilled in the art would apply the teachings of one reference to the teachings of the other.

Sugiyama has a middle wall that is flat across its lateral dimension and it is taller than it is wide. Additionally, its support surface at 4/8 is curved and not flat. Furthermore, it appears from the drawing that the material thickness of the container varies, especially in the wall of the middle section. Consequently, it would appear that the middle section is subject to failure, either in the top or in the sides, if subjected to the environment experienced by the other applied references. Furthermore, if the structure was made wider than tall, which is not shown, there is no predictability that such a structure would be usable in its intended way.

Harvey, U.S. patent No. 3,272,383, teaches a one-piece extruded container, but there is no teaching or suggestion that the bottom configuration would be suitable for a container that is lower than it is wide. No dimensions are given in *Harvey*, except for the metal thickness (column 4, line 1) and the height of a seam (column 4, line 19), and therefore, there is no support in *Harvey* for rejecting any claims reciting dimensions. Additionally, the teachings of *Echternach* (GB2,119,743) are that pre-existing bottom configurations are not suitable, and *Harvey* appears to be one such pre-existing bottom configuration. Furthermore, *Echternach* specifically teaches that the concentric panels 52, 55 and 58 are all below the crest 47 of the countersink, while the *Harvey* concavo-convex end "C" is almost entirely if not completely above any of the *Harvey* bottom formations. Therefore, any combination of these two references fails, and there is no showing that the combination described in the Office Action would be predictable.

Harvey also states that the bottom configuration must include the formation of the "chine A" for a practical and utilitarian article, without which the article would be

practically useless for the purpose intended. [See, *Harvey*, column 4, lines 66-71.] Therefore, it is not seen how one skilled in the art, considering the prior art in its entirety, including evidence contrary to the position taken in the Office Action, would look to *Harvey* to reach the container as claimed. *Harvey* states that its container must have the chine A for proper construction, and there is no teaching or suggestion or any other consideration in *Harvey* or other applied reference that would lead one skilled in the art to combine *Harvey* with any of the other applied references.

Biggins has been discussed previously. It is noted that the Office Action asserts the *Biggins* seal plug 8 is a rimming dish. However, no showing is made that a "seal plug" is a "rimming dish" and it is not believed that such a showing can be made. A rimming dish is a structure used to contain materials for application of the materials to an item of drinkware. See the three examples of common usage of the phrase "rimming dish" attached hereto as Exhibit A (see Arrow Markings). None of the applied references teach a rimming dish. Therefore, there is no showing that any of the references teach, suggest or in any way render the claimed combination with a rimming dish predictable. Moreover, the Office Action has failed to establish that *Biggins*, *Jonas*, *Echternach* and *Sugyama* would be combined, or that such combination would produce the claimed inventions. In fact, the foregoing establishes that there is no teaching the references would be combined.

Lyu, U.S. patent No. 3,942,673, teaches a metal wall construction for containers having a bottom wall 14 with a spherical portion 24 having a radius of curvature of R1 which meets an annular portion 26 having a second radius of curvature R2. *Lyu*'s side walls are taller than the container is wide.

Lyu also states that H1 and H2 are of utmost importance. H1 is the height of a vertical portion 20 and H2 is the height of the dome 22. [See, *Lyu*, column 3, lines 12-15.] As noted in the quoted text below, H1 is a required element for resistance to buckling, which is the purpose of the *Lyu* design, but a straight wall meeting the dome 22 is completely contrary to the teachings of *Jonas* requiring smooth transitions in the bottom profile. Specifically, *Lyu* states:

> It has been found that the relation of H1 to H2 and the particular configuration of ellipsoidal dome 22 are the most important variables in the profiled bottom wall of container 10 to produce a container which is highly resistant to pressure buckling. Stated another way, the ellipsoidal dome 22 and substantially vertical wall 20 are dimensioned so that the maximum stress point on the ellipsoidal dome is located at the intersection between substantially vertical portion 20 and dome 22. In addition, the arcuate portion 16 at the lower end of side wall 12 and the annular bead 18 produce a reduced diameter for bottom wall 14. The diameter for the bottom wall 14 is defined by the lowermost edge of bead 18 and this annular edge produces the anchor point or base for bottom wall 14 when pressure is applied inside the container.

[See, *Lyu*, column 3, lines 16-31.] The teachings of *Lyu* and of *Jonas* are therefore contradictory and the Office Action fails to establish which reference is the correct teaching. No showing is made that *Lyu* and *Jonas* can be reconciled.

Likewise with the container of *Harvey*, there is nothing about these references that would make a container shorter than it is wide having the bottom configuration as claimed.

Claims

Consider now the claims in the application.

Claim 1 is an independent apparatus claim and recites in part:

> "a raised portion having a convex shape and connected to the interior area of the recessed portion extending upward and toward the center of the receptacle a first distance between approximately ½ and less than 2 inches and wherein the raised portion is substantially circular and has an outer diameter between approximately two inches and approximately four inches; and
>
> "an outer wall portion connected to the exterior area and extending at least partly upwardly a second distance greater than the first distance to

a rim forming an opening that has a maximum opening dimension greater than the second distance."

None of the applied references taken singly or in combination teach or suggest the claimed combination, the recited elements quoted above, or a raised portion having a convex shape and extending upward a first distance between approximately ½ and less than 2 inches and wherein the raised portion has an outer diameter between approximately two inches and approximately four inches and an opening that has a maximum opening dimension greater than the second distance. Echternach teaches a container of 3 7/16 inch diameter, with a flat bottom wall height of 0.143 inch, which may be on the order of *Jonas* but still flat and nowhere near a half inch. Even if *Jonas* and *Echternach* were combined, which Applicant traverses, they would be nowhere near the claimed structures. The foregoing as well as Applicant's May 19, 2008 response establish that none of the applied references singly or together teach or render predicable the recited elements.

Claims 2-8, 10-11, and 13 are dependent directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and are asserted as being patentable for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1, for the combinations in the dependent claims as well as for the additional limitations recited in the dependent claims. Note for example claim 4 which recites in part "wherein the raised portion extends upward to a top-most portion of the raised portion at a center of the receptacle and wherein the first distance from the recessed portion to the top-most portion is greater than approximately 1/2 inch". Note also claim 5, dependent from claim 4, reciting in part "wherein the first distance is approximately three quarter inch". Claim 8 recites "wherein the outer wall portion forms a substantially circular wall extending around the recessed portion and has a diameter greater than 4 inches". Even if *Echternach* has a bottom wall greater than 3 7/16 inches, of which there is no showing, *Echternach* teaches that it would be flat and *Jonas* teaches it would be as flat as possible. Note also claim 11 reciting in part "wherein the second distance is approximately twice the first distance". None of the references teach

or suggest the second distance approximately twice the first distance in combination with the elements of claim 1.

Claim 12 is an independent apparatus claim and recites in part:

> "a raised portion having a convex shape and connected to the interior area of the recessed portion extending upward and toward the center of the receptacle a first distance between approximately ½ and less than 2 inches;
>
> "an outer wall portion connected to the exterior area and extending at least partly upwardly a second distance greater than the first distance to a rim forming an opening that has a maximum opening dimension greater than the second distance and wherein the opening dimension is greater than 4 inches; and
>
> "wherein the second distance is approximately two inches."

None of the applied references taken singly or in combination teach or suggest the claimed combination, the recited elements quoted above, or a raised portion extending upward a first distance between approximately ½ and less than 2 inches and an outer wall portion extending at least partly upwardly a second distance greater than the first distance to a rim forming an opening that has a maximum opening dimension greater than the second distance and wherein the opening dimension is greater than 4 inches and wherein the second distance is approximately two inches. The foregoing as well as Applicant's May 19, 2008 response establish that none of the applied references singly or together teach or render predicable the recited elements.

Claim 14 is an independent apparatus claim and recites in part:

> "an outer wall portion extending downwardly a first distance from the upper rim to a base portion, wherein the first distance is between one-half and 2 inches, the base portion having a substantially flat surface facing upwardly toward the opening and . . . wherein a largest dimension of the

> base portion across the body is greater than 4 inches, wherein the raised portion extends inwardly from the base portion substantially constantly upwardly toward a center of the receptacle and wherein the raised portion has a vertical height approximately half the first distance and a largest dimension of the raised portion across the body is between approximately 2 and 4 inches."

None of the applied references taken singly or in combination teach or suggest the claimed combination, the recited elements quoted above, or an outer wall portion wherein the first distance is between one-half and 2 inches, wherein a largest dimension of the base portion across the body is greater than 4 inches, wherein the raised portion has a vertical height approximately half the first distance and a largest dimension of the raised portion across the body is between approximately 2 and 4 inches. One skilled in the art of rimming dishes would not look to *Harvey, Echternach* or *Sugiyama* to arrive at the claimed invention. None of the applied references teach or render predictable a largest dimension of the base portion across the body that is greater than 4 inches. The foregoing as well as Applicant's May 19, 2008 response establish that none of the applied references singly or together teach or render predicable the recited elements.

Claims 15-18 are dependent directly or indirectly from independent claim 14 and are asserted as being patentable for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claim 14, for the combinations in the dependent claims as well as for the additional limitations recited in the dependent claims.

Claim 19 is an independent apparatus claim and recites in part:

> "a round container . . . ; and
>
> "a round rimming dish sized to fit at least partly within the round container, the dish having a first recessed area for receiving a coating material for coating a rim of a drink ware, and also having a raised area in the dish sized sufficiently to allow manual grasping of the raised area and wherein the raised area includes a wall defining an outer perimeter of the

raised area and wherein the raised area further includes a second recessed area within the wall."

None of the applied references taken singly or in combination teach or suggest the claimed combination, the recited elements quoted above, or the rimming dish first and second recessed areas. No applied reference even teaches or suggests a rimming dish. The foregoing as well as Applicant's May 19, 2008 response establish that none of the applied references singly or together teach or render predicable the recited elements.

Claim 20 is dependent directly or indirectly from independent claim 19 and is asserted as being patentable for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claim 19, for the combinations in the dependent claim as well as for the additional limitations recited in the dependent claim.

Claim 21 is an independent apparatus claim and recites in part:

"a receptacle wall extending upwardly from a bottom portion of the receptacle wall to a rim, wherein the rim defines an opening having a size sufficient to receive the open rim of an item of drink ware and wherein the largest distance across the opening is greater than 4 inches and wherein the rim has an upper surface;

"a bottom wall joining the receptacle wall at the bottom portion of the receptacle wall, the bottom wall having a relatively flat section adjacent the receptacle wall and a raised portion interior to the relatively flat section and wherein the raised portion extends upward to an upper position above the relatively flat section and below the rim wherein the upper position is greater than or equal to about one-half inch and less than two inches, wherein the raised portion has a largest distance across the receptacle between 2 and 4 inches and wherein opening size is greater than a distance from the bottom portion to the rim of the receptacle wall.

None of the applied references taken singly or in combination teach or suggest the claimed combination, the recited elements quoted above, or a receptacle wall extending upwardly from a bottom portion of the receptacle wall to a rim, wherein the rim defines an opening . . . and wherein the largest distance across the opening is greater than 4 inches and a raised portion interior to the relatively flat section and wherein the raised portion extends upward to an upper position above the relatively flat section and below the rim wherein the upper position is greater than or equal to about one-half inch and less than two inches, wherein the raised portion has a largest distance across the receptacle between 2 and 4 inches and wherein opening size is greater than a distance from the bottom portion to the rim of the receptacle wall. None of the prior art teaches or suggests when taken singly or in combination a raised portion having an upper position greater than or equal to about 1/2 inch and less than two inches and wherein the opening size is greater than the height of the upper position. The foregoing as well as Applicant's May 19, 2008 response establish that none of the applied references singly or together teach or render predicable the recited elements.

Claims 22-24 are dependent directly or indirectly from independent claim 21 and are asserted as being patentable for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claim 21, for the combinations in the dependent claims as well as for the additional limitations recited in the dependent claims.

Reconsideration of the application and claims in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks is respectfully requested. Early notice of allowance thereof is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner does not believe the foregoing amendments place the application in a condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request the courtesy of a telephone interview to discuss the claims.

This response is being filed with a Request for Continued Prosecution and a Payment for A Three-Month Extension of Time.

Please charge any additional fees that may be due or credit any overpayments to our deposit Account No. 50-0655. If a petition is required in conjunction with this paper, please consider this a request for such a petition.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 23, 2009

/James A Henricks/

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Drinks

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October 19, 2007

A Blustery Day

Posted by Liz under Chocolate, Drinks, Recipe
1 Comment

Today is a blustery day. Wind howls, the sky growls, and I wish we had a fireplace.

Despite this lack, I will fight this chill! It is time for hot cocoa. I have two recipes, one which is much more akin to the cocoa everyone is used to (you can make a lot of it, store it in some kind of airtight container, and then all you need is hot milk and some vanilla). The other is by far my favorite, and it is actually a very thin ganache.

For those days when I have no bar or chip chocolate in the house, I keep this tupperware in my cabinet. Emergencies! Pour:

2 cups sugar
1 cup cocoa (the better the cocoa, the better the cocoa!)
1 pinch salt

Put the lid on this, and shake it thoroughly. When cocoa is desired, fill favored mug with hot milk and a bare splash of vanilla, along with a heaping spoon of mix. Hoorah!

However, if one *does* have chip or bar type chocolate in the house...

Ganache is a simple thing. It's no more than heavy cream with chocolate melted in until it shines. It's quite thick, and used as filling for truffles, or as a frosting. However, if made thin - with regular ol' milk, and more of it than usual - it is the singular most decadent hot cocoa. Ever.

Take your favored mug. put in chocolate chunks. Halfway up the side makes it pretty thick, if you like that sort of thing. 1/4 of the way up makes it much closer to the texture of good hot cocoa, and even one lone chip will flavor the milk a little. Dark chocolate is always a good idea, but if milk chocolate is what you have, this is still by far better than any other cocoa!

Add a splash of vanilla to the top of your chunks, and pour milk over the top. Microwave for 30 seconds. (You can do this in a double boiler too, especially if you're doing it for a lot of people. I'm usually just making for me.) Stir, and if there are any chunks left, microwave for a bit more. When you're done stirring, it will have a glistening chocolate sheen.

Heaven.

I would drink up, right there, but if you're the kind you can add a lot of things. Bailey's makes a great addition, if you're of the mind - Bailey's mint and Bailey's caramel work just as well (Housemate, who has now left us, would attest to the caramel variety!) If you're looking to keep your cocoa non-alcoholic, mint, candy cane chunks, a candy cane stirrer, a cinnamon stick, candy caramel topping....**The**

possibilities, how endless they are.

You can add whipped cream or marshmallows, but I don't find either necessary.

August 31, 2007

Summer has Come and Gone

Posted by Liz under Drinks, Odds and Ends, Recipe
No Comments

"The final days of summer are upon us!" scream the radio car commercials. Annoying as they are, they're right. The season which has so long lasted is finally in it's symbolic final weekend. I hope you all have wonderful grill-outs before you put your grills away for the summer, and that the brats and burgers are worthy of your attentions.

I, however, am extraordinarily excited. Ladies and gents, autumn is upon us and I love to cook for it. Hearty stews, apple crisps, apple chicken for that matter, and oh, my word, did somebody mention pork? Pumpkin-casserole! Candied squash! The yam!

A drink recipe for you, a summery, chilled drink that yet embodies all that is fall.

Crush 4 graham crackers with 2 tablespoons of sugar into a small rimming dish (a saucer works well). Wet the edge of a martini glass and rim with mixture. Pour in 3oz apple juice (for the kids) or apple pucker (for you) shaken with a teaspoon or two of cinnamon sugar. Shake over ice, or just chill everything before. It's apple juice/pucker. This isn't fancy, people. It's called the Apple Pie Tini, and it's meant to be easy on the liver. And *do* let the kids have theirs in plastic martini glasses. Kids are particularly hilarious when you let them be sophisticate.

See you all on Tuesday! Have a happy labor day weekend!

August 16, 2007

Sweet and Sour

Posted by Liz under Drinks, Recipe
No Comments

Everybody loves sweet and sour, right? That super-citrus flavor, found in things like apple martinis and key lime cocktails, as well as a host of other things? It also is known as "Bar Mix" - indicative of its incredible popularity. Guess what? It's also the easiest mixer to make!

You start out making simple syrup. We'll be making quite a bit, but if you can't see yourself going through this much, the recipe scales well. Start with 3 cups of sugar and 3 cups of water. Mix in a sauce pan (what you're supposed to do) or a teflon coated deep skillet (What I do. I dislike dishes, especially sticky ones). Anyway, so you mix this together over medium heat and bring it to a low simmer, where you let it stay for a minute or so. It'll get, well, syrupy. Hence the name.

Right, so let that cool off. Cover it, of course, because sugar plus water? Okay, every ant, fly, gnat, otherwise gross creepy crawly, they know it's there and they want it. *Want*. So cover it tightly. (Though if you mix a simple syrup with some kind of bug poison, for instance, soap, it makes a nice bug killer.)

Ew. Anyway, once it's all cooled off, go ahead and mix in 2 cups of lime juice and 2 cups of lemon juice. Stir until combined (no heat this time) and then pour it into your container. An old alcohol bottle that's very clean would be great, or a bell jar. A tupperware would also be fine, but then you have the trouble that it's hard to pour things out of a tupperware.

August 11, 2007

Happy Weekend!

Posted by Liz under Drinks, Recipe
No Comments

So I meant to post this yesterday for your viewing pleasure, however, I was in the car from 8am to 10:30 pm, so I do hope you'll forgive me.

If you're interested in making your own drinks, why not make your own mixers, as well? I might make this a new series for you all - tasty drinks, not necessarily alcoholic, but party mixes. However, it'll likely be bi-weekly. I'm a fan of doing your own experimentation with drinks. But then, if you have your own drink you think needs shared with the world, you can always tell me about it, and I'll post it! (With appropriate linkage of course.)

So this recipe, today, is not a drink. It is, in fact, how to make Grenadine!

Grenadine is one of those delicious staples in the beverage making world, a pretty red juice that delights and amazes. **Shirley Temple and Roy Rogers just wouldn't be who they are today without it!** (a Roy Rogers is coke and grenadine)

Anyway. It's really easy to make if you can find pomegranates in your local market. Simply seed them - remember, the seeds are the edible part - by slicing them in half and smacking on the outer side with a spoon. This will dislodge the seeds, sprinkling them into whatever receptacle you have nearby. I recommend a sauce pot, for this application. **By the way, this technique is called "Spanking the pomegranate."** Naughty, neh?

Anyway, so cook these for a couple of minutes, until they give off their juice easily. Smash with fork, spoon, pestle…get as much liquid out as you can, and then strain it all into a large measuring cup. How much pomegranate juice do you have? Put every drop back into the pot along with an equal amount of sugar. Bring this to a very low simmer, and let it reduce for 10 minutes. Pour this off into a sterile bottle (or you can can it), cap, and refrigerate. **Use whenever you need!**

About the Site:

- Food isn't "fusion" - it's just food! If you start with great stuff, you'll end with great stuff.

Links

- cooks.com My favorite resource for looking up recipes
- Food Network My favorite channel on TV! I love Good Eats and The Next Food Network Star.

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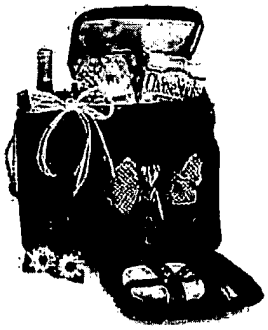

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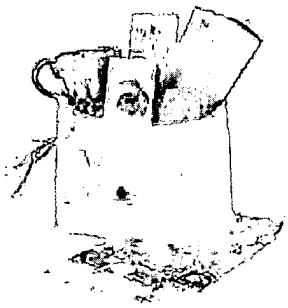

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